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Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1876 (2009), by which the Council requested me to report every four months on the progress made in establishing the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and in implementing the resolution. It covers major developments since my last report of 26 February 2010 (S/2010/106).

II. Political developments

2. Tension in the political and security situation in Guinea-Bissau increased during the reporting period, with serious divisions within and among the civilian and military leadership. The political tension began to resurface in the run-up to the second ordinary session of the National Assembly, which took place from 18 February to 18 March, when the opposition Social Renewal Party (PRS) launched a campaign accusing Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior of bad governance and blaming him for the insecurity in the country. The opposition lobbied for the dismissal of the Prime Minister, and tried to exploit the dissensions within the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC). This situation prompted President Malam Bacai Sanha to call on the leadership of the ruling party and the opposition to avoid creating a new climate of political instability, and instead to focus on the development of Guinea-Bissau.

3. The impasse in the negotiations over the modalities for the voluntary and peaceful departure of former Navy Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral José Américo Bubo Na Tchuto, from the United Nations premises, where he had sought refuge since 28 December 2009, also had a negative impact on the political and security situation. Despite the 8 January 2010 agreement signed between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the United Nations, subsequent discussions involving the Rear Admiral and national authorities to facilitate his voluntary departure remained inconclusive. Throughout this period, my Special Representative continued his efforts to find a consensual solution on this sensitive matter, but no breakthrough was reached before the events of 1 April. The divergence of views between President Sanha and Prime Minister Gomes Júnior on the case of Rear Admiral

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Bubo Na Tchuto had a negative impact on the political environment. Repeated calls by international partners for genuine and regular dialogue between the two leaders materialized only in April.

4. Meanwhile, dissensions also resurfaced within the leadership of the armed forces, between the Chief of General Staff, Vice Admiral José Zamora Induta, and his Deputy, Major General António N'djai. Tensions between them deepened, in particular since the end of February 2010, when the Chief of General Staff undertook to rotate several military officers loyal to his Deputy, who brought the matter to the attention of both the President and the Prime Minister. President Sanha stated that he had scheduled a meeting of the Council of Defence and Security, to be held on 5 April, to address these issues.

5. On 1 April, however, troops acting under the orders of the Deputy Chief of General Staff took control of the armed forces headquarters and detained the Chief of General Staff, as well as the head of the military intelligence service, Colonel Samba Djaló. Prime Minister Gomes Júnior was also briefly detained by the military, but was released a few hours later following the intervention of President Sanha. Furthermore, on that same day, five armed military elements, under the orders of the Deputy Chief of General Staff, forced their way into the United Nations premises in Bissau, demanding the immediate release of Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, who subsequently left the same premises after signing a statement that he was leaving voluntarily and peacefully.

6. In an unprecedented and unusual show of public rejection of the actions of the military, on the same day, large crowds gathered outside the office of the Prime Minister, to express support for the civilian authorities and denounce the breach of constitutional order by the armed forces. For many observers, this public display of solidarity with the civilian authorities helped to prevent further deterioration of the security situation. Despite repeated threats by the Deputy Chief of General Staff to use force against civilians, the crowds dispersed only after the Prime Minister was released and appealed to them to return to their homes.

7. This unlawful action by the military also attracted strong condemnations by other Guinea-Bissau national stakeholders and the international community. On 1 April, I issued a statement calling on the military and political leadership in Guinea-Bissau to resolve differences by peaceful means and maintain constitutional order, as well as ensure respect for the rule of law. On his part, my Special Representative denounced the violation of the United Nations premises by the armed forces and sought clarifications and immediate actions by the civilian and military leadership of the country, with regard to the arrest of the Prime Minister and the detention of the Chief of General Staff and other officers. The President and the Prime Minister also condemned the unlawful behaviour of the armed forces. During the night of 1 April, the Deputy Chief of General Staff conveyed his apologies to my Special Representative for the violation of the United Nations premises by elements of the armed forces. The following day, the Deputy Chief also apologized in public to the Prime Minister and to the population for the behaviour of the armed forces, and, in particular, for the brief detention of the Prime Minister and the threats he had made the previous day. Despite the unlawful action by the armed forces, the leadership of the army reiterated their subordination to the Government and to State institutions.

8. Throughout the crisis, my Special Representative worked very closely with the leadership of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with the African Union and with the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries (CPLP), as well as with the representatives of the European Union and other Member States of the United Nations on the ground to help prevent further deterioration of the situation and preserve the constitutional order. On 4 April, upon the proposal of my Special Representative, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Interim President of the ECOWAS Commission travelled to Bissau for consultations with the civilian and military leadership of the country. During their meetings, they were joined by the Executive Secretary of CPLP and by my Special Representatives for West Africa and Guinea-Bissau. The delegation strongly condemned the events of 1 April, which, they insisted, constituted a serious setback to the democratic process in the country and in the subregion. They called on the military to remain subordinate to the civilian leadership and to restore legal military command and control, and also offered to send a high-level military delegation to work with the leadership of the armed forces on structural and operational issues.

9. In a nationwide address on 10 April, President Sanha strongly condemned the events of 1 April, noting that they had taken place at a time when the country was beginning to achieve some degree of political stability and economic growth. He noted that the problems could have been resolved through institutional dialogue and urged the international community to continue to support Guinea-Bissau. He underscored the need to reform the defence and security sectors as a vital imperative in creating a professional and functional armed forces that would be subordinate to civilian authorities.

10. The President and the Prime Minister subsequently initiated regular consultations, including on how to resolve the impasse in the leadership of the armed forces. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the armed forces and other senior officers were also associated with those consultations. In parallel, the President continued consultations with a wide-ranging segment of the military, including those sidelined in military purges carried out since the 1998-1999 period of armed conflicts, to advocate for the need to continue implementing crucial reforms in the defence and security sectors. The President also held consultations with leaders of political parties and civil society organizations. During those meetings, he denied rumours of serious differences between him and the Prime Minister, and reminded the military that the leadership and the legitimacy of the Government had been the outcome of legislative elections and had to be respected. At the same time, the President undertook to address, with the Government, the underlying causes of the crisis within the armed forces. He convened a series of meetings in early May with the Ministers of Defence and Finance to discuss immediate measures to improve the working and living conditions of members of the armed forces, including the urgent rehabilitation of the barracks.

11. At their meeting in Cotonou, Benin, from 13 to 15 April, the ECOWAS Chiefs of General Staff agreed to dispatch to Bissau a high-level delegation composed of the Chiefs of General Staff of Cape Verde, Ghana, Liberia and Togo. The high-level delegation, led by the Chief of General Staff of the Liberian armed forces, visited Bissau from 4 to 8 May and met with key national and international stakeholders, except the Prime Minister, who was away from the country. The high-level delegation urged the leadership of the armed forces to refrain from any actions that could undermine the constitutional order and to demonstrate commitment to

undertake crucial reforms in the defence and security sectors, with the continued support of international partners.

12. The ECOWAS Chiefs of General Staff also emphasized the need to continue to sensitize the army leadership to the concept of security sector reform, the importance of addressing the complex relationship between civilian and military authorities, the prevalence of impunity for acts committed by the army, including those of 1 April, as well as the serious impact of drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption, on the stability of the country. The delegation identified a proactive sensitization campaign on security sector reform and measures for improving conditions in the barracks as crucial steps. The delegation also recommended the deployment of units under the auspices of ECOWAS to train and mentor national security institutions of Guinea-Bissau responsible for the protection of civilian authorities in the country.

13. For their part, the member States of the European Union reacted strongly to the events of 1 April by calling on the President and Prime Minister to facilitate the immediate and unconditional release of the detained Chief of General Staff, pending the launching of a proper judicial process. They also called for the adoption of disciplinary measures against those responsible for the 1 April breach of constitutional order, and for a demonstration by the national authorities of a firm and genuine commitment to advancing key reforms, including in the security sector. The European Union also called on the national authorities to ensure the credible appointment of the leadership of the armed forces. This position was later endorsed by the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, which decided to postpone the planned high-level event on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau scheduled to be held in New York on 9 June 2010.

14. My Special Representative and international partners on the ground continued to convey key concerns to the national authorities in Bissau. These concerns include the following: no political gains should be expected from the 1 April breach of constitutional order; national authorities need to demonstrate commitment to advancing key reforms, including in the security sector; the President and Prime Minister must appoint credible interlocutors to the leadership of the armed forces; and the security and the right to a fair and legal procedure of the detained Chief of General Staff and other officers arrested on 1 April should be respected.

15. In order to address these concerns, President Sanha embarked on a series of diplomatic initiatives to ensure continued engagement by the international community in Guinea-Bissau. On 8 April, he travelled to Angola for consultations with President José Eduardo dos Santos on military training assistance, among other issues. A bilateral military cooperation agreement was signed during a follow-up visit to Angola from 14 to 18 April by the Minister of Defence of Guinea-Bissau. President Sanha dispatched his diplomatic adviser and the Deputy Chief of General Staff to Tripoli, on 24 and 25 April, for consultations with Libyan officials at the invitation of President Qaddafi. As a result, Libyan officials committed to provide support for the equipment and training of the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau. On 6 May, President Sanha dispatched his spokesperson to Portugal, and he himself travelled to Cape Verde and Senegal on 9 and 13 May, respectively, to seek support for ongoing reforms in the country. On 14 May, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal travelled to Bissau for consultations with President Sanha.

16. During the reporting period, slow but encouraging progress was made in the preparations for the national conference promoted by the National Assembly on the theme "Towards Peace Consolidation and Development: causes, prevention, resolution and consequences of conflict in Guinea-Bissau". The conference is scheduled for 20 January 2011 and will be preceded by a series of nationwide preparatory consultations, including two for the defence and security forces, and one for the Guinea-Bissau diaspora. In March 2010, the Department of Political Affairs deployed a consultant who provided technical assistance to the preparatory commission of the national conference and facilitated a three-day retreat on strategy and methodology, from 29 to 31 March. The retreat, funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), succeeded in clarifying and harmonizing understanding among the members of the preparatory commission on the crucial aspects of the overall concept, objectives, expected outcomes, format and methodology of the conference. The workshop also reviewed previous and ongoing dialogue initiatives, including the Voz di Paz (Voice of Peace) grass-roots participatory dialogue initiative, to identify lessons learned and best practices.

III. Military aspects

17. Since the events of 1 April, the military and security situation has remained tense. The Chief of General Staff remains in detention at the Mansoa barracks, the stronghold of the Deputy Chief of General Staff, who has taken effective control of the military. Almost two months after the Chief of General Staff was arrested, and despite assurances by President Sanha to my Special Representative that the Chief of General Staff would soon be legally prosecuted, no action has yet been taken by the Prosecutor General.

18. On 12 April, the Deputy Chief of Staff formally presented charges against the Chief of General Staff to the Prosecutor General, accusing the former of embezzlement, involvement in the disappearance of drugs seized during an anti-narcotics operation, and attempting to divide the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau. The Chief of General Staff was also accused of allowing military intelligence services to interfere in the activities of political parties. Meanwhile, other sources indicate that the arrest and detention of the Chief of General Staff could be linked to a military investigation he launched into the landing of a plane allegedly carrying illicit drugs in the south of the country in March 2010, a matter which reportedly involved high-ranking military officers. In addition, during a visit to Portugal, on 22 March, the Chief of General Staff reiterated his commitment to security sector reform and to combating drug trafficking within the armed forces.

19. The issue of the leadership of the armed forces is yet to be addressed by the President and the Prime Minister. The delay is mainly attributed to difficulties faced by the national authorities in identifying candidates with the experience, qualifications and credentials needed to champion the process of restructuring and modernizing the armed forces, and who also command the confidence of both the civilian authorities and the military. In addition, the nomination must be submitted by the Prime Minister, who was out of the country from 24 April to 14 June. On 4 May, the National Assembly voted to abolish the post of Deputy Chief of General Staff, a decision that complicates the position of the current occupant, who has held de facto control of the armed forces since 1 April.

20. Additionally, the Permanent Commission of the National Assembly commissioned an investigation into the events of 1 April but on 17 May the Speaker of the National Assembly ruled that the report was extempore and decided to leave it to the judiciary to establish the facts and determine responsibilities. On 8 April, the United States Treasury Department decided to designate the current Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Lieutenant General Ibraima Papa Camará, and Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto as drug kingpins. It is likely that similar actions against other members of the armed forces allegedly involved in illicit activities related to drug trafficking and organized crime would be undertaken. This would further increase tension in the armed forces, in particular should a credible leadership of the armed forces not be appointed.

IV. Security sector reform and the rule of law

21. The unlawful action by elements of the armed forces that occurred on 1 April has, once again, underlined the need to expedite without delay the reform of the defence and security sectors. The President, the Prime Minister and the leadership of the armed forces recently reiterated their firm intention to implement the reform and to have the Government assume its responsibilities, including those related to immediately addressing the poor working and living conditions in the barracks.

22. During the reporting period, UNIOGBIS worked closely with other key national and international stakeholders to reframe and enhance the coordination of the assistance provided by international partners in support of the reform. In that regard, in March 2010, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in support of UNIOGBIS, presented the concept of a synchronization dashboard for security sector reform to the entire United Nations family, national authorities and stakeholders in Bissau. The dashboard tool seeks to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of national security sector reform coordination bodies, committees, commissions or similar structures in managing security sector reform programmes and projects in the country.

23. During the consultations with national and international stakeholders on security sector reform, national authorities criticized past programmes for being too narrow in scope or too slow in implementation, and therefore unable to deliver the most-needed results. They also contended that, too often, the principle of national ownership was ignored. In order to ensure the successful implementation of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau, UNIOGBIS has identified the need for a combination of key factors, including increased ownership by national partners, the continued support and financial assistance of international partners, and political stability and security throughout the country. UNIOGBIS convened a sensitization workshop on 23 and 24 June in Bissau, with the participation of all concerned national and international stakeholders, to broaden buy-in and agree on a road map for implementing the reform of the defence and security sectors. Initial démarches have also been made with bilateral partners, in particular Angola, Brazil and Portugal, to implement training projects for policing and internal security institutions, as recommended by the high-level delegation of the Chiefs of General Staff of ECOWAS that visited Bissau in May 2010, and to provide assistance for enhancing maritime surveillance capacities.

24. A European Union delegation visited Bissau in the context of the Common Security and Defence Policy from 1 to 3 March 2010, for discussions on a possible follow-up mission to the existing security sector reform mission, which is currently downsizing and could potentially withdraw before the end of the year. UNIOGBIS has actively interacted with the European Union on matters related to security sector reform, notably in sharing detailed planning information and providing advocacy support for the approval of legal frameworks. Early in May, the National Assembly approved a package of legislation related to security sector reform, including amendments to the basic organic law on the armed forces, and laws on the National Guard, the Public Order Police and the State Security Information Services. The legislation was sent to the President for promulgation on 18 May.

25. During the reporting period, UNIOGBIS made significant headway on the model police station project for the Public Order Police. On 13 March, the Prime Minister and my Special Representative took part in the formal ground-breaking ceremony for the model police station in Bairro Militar, one of the largest suburbs in Bissau, marking the first step towards institutionalizing community-oriented policing by the Public Order Police. The selection of the officers who will staff the model police station was completed in April, and 34 candidates, including seven women, were selected and endorsed by the Ministry of the Interior. In addition, a host facility has been identified for the establishment of a computer-based training facility for the Public Order Police, which should be completed by the end of June 2010. UNIOGBIS has also initiated a programme to support the Ministry of the Interior in developing and implementing a vetting process for the Public Order Police, an integrity and accountability strategy and a witness protection programme, all of which are considered critical in breaking the cycle of impunity. As an introductory step, UNIOGBIS hosted a national seminar on coordination and cooperation mechanisms between the Office of the Prosecutor General and the police forces on 26 May, which was widely acknowledged as providing a positive momentum for reform.

26. UNIOGBIS has worked closely with relevant national stakeholders and international partners to support Government institutions in mainstreaming issues pertaining to security sector reform in the 2011-2013 poverty reduction strategy paper, which is currently being drafted. UNIOGBIS also enhanced its collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior to identify challenges and opportunities for gender mainstreaming in the police forces, in particular the prevention and investigation of gender-based violence. For its part, and following extensive consultations with national and international stakeholders, UNDP developed a new project in support of rule of law programmes over the next two years. The project, with a budget of $5 million, will facilitate access to justice and provide an interface between formal and traditional justice mechanisms. It will also promote women's rights, introduce systematic training for magistrates, prosecutors and legal actors, and improve planning and coordination in the sector. UNDP also provided a strategic planner to support the Ministry of Justice in formulating a national policy and a strategic development plan for the justice sector, which will be finalized in consultation with all stakeholders.

27. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat fielded a mission to Guinea-Bissau from 5 to 9 April, in the framework of a joint project conducted by the Department and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, to support the Government in the fight against the illicit proliferation of

small arms. The main objectives of the mission were to monitor the pilot project for small arms collection launched in Bairro Militar in December 2009 and to provide recommendations on the pilot project and other planned activities. The mission also worked out the practical details and modalities for the integration of the pilot project into the overall security sector reform efforts of UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team in Guinea-Bissau. UNIOGBIS provided the National Small Arms Commission, its main counterpart in this project, with detailed recommendations on practical aspects of the collection, storage and destruction of illicit small arms, as well as on the engagement of youth and civil society organizations in the project.

V. Drug trafficking and organized crime

28. During the reporting period, no significant seizures of drugs were reported. However, in the National Assembly, a parliamentarian from the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, representing the electoral colleges of Catió and Cacine in the south, deplored the reported involvement of army elements in facilitating the landing of a plane allegedly carrying large quantities of illicit drugs at an airstrip in Cufar, near Catió, on 3 March 2010. The National Directorate of the Judiciary Police, which is operating only in Bissau, has requested the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to extend its presence to Bafatá, in the east, and Bubaque, in the Bijagós archipelago. Meanwhile, within the framework of its support to the Anti-Narcotics Operational Plan 2007-2010, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to provide logistical support to the Judiciary Police and the national INTERPOL office, and launched the bidding phase for the refurbishment of the future police training site.

29. During the month of April, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime undertook an assessment of the penitentiary system to develop a comprehensive strategy and programme for prison reform, with the support of UNIOGBIS and under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice. The assessment contributed to the review of several mechanisms, including the legal framework governing the prison system, as part of efforts to assess the training needs for the staff and identify resources for and alternatives to incarceration. Meanwhile, 67 new officers from the Judiciary Police continued to receive training under Portuguese technical cooperation, and should be operational by the end of June 2010.

VI. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund

30. On 26 April 2010, the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission met to discuss possible responses from the Commission with respect to the incidents of 1 April in Guinea-Bissau. Through its Chair, Ambassador Maria Luiza Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, the Peacebuilding Commission sent a letter to the Government of Guinea-Bissau expressing concern over the latest events in the country. The Commission also requested that the national authorities provide assurances of their commitment to sustain the progress that had been made, in particular by taking steps to ensure that the events of 1 April and their consequences were addressed in a constructive manner, in accordance with the law. Moreover, the Commission emphasized that the

resolution of the issue of the leadership of the armed forces was expected as a matter of priority. Responding on behalf of the Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs underlined the commitment of the Government to lead the peacebuilding process and highlighted the immediate actions taken to restore the normal functioning of national institutions in the aftermath of the events of 1 April. The Minister added that legal actions were being taken by the military court against the detained Chief of General Staff, but that the army leadership issue remained unresolved, pending the return of the Prime Minister to Guinea-Bissau. The Minister urged the Commission to support peacebuilding priorities, in particular security sector reform, including the establishment of a pension fund for defence sector personnel.

31. During the reporting period, a national technical team, coordinated by the Ministry of Economy, with the support of the United Nations, continued its discussions on the peacebuilding priority plan for the period 2010-2012. The draft plan identifies several priority activities to be funded in support of the reforms of the security, judiciary and public administration sectors, as well as economic recovery and assistance to social services, in line with the priorities reviewed under the Commission's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding.

32. In parallel, the four projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund are still ongoing, namely the refurbishment of military barracks, support to vocational training programmes, youth employment and the rehabilitation of prisons. The refurbishment of the military barracks in the regions of Gabú and Quebo started in May, and the rehabilitation of two prisons in the regions of Bafatá and Mansoa is nearing completion. On 17 May, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Secretary of State for Youth, Culture and Sports inaugurated the offices of the Coordination Cell of the Vocational Training and Youth Employment project. A partnership agreement was concluded with a private entity to manage microcredit activities for some 240 beneficiaries.

VII. Economic and social aspects

33. The economic and fiscal situation of Guinea-Bissau remains fragile, although economic performance in the first quarter of 2010 was satisfactory and consistent with that of the last quarter of 2009. As a result of lower food and fuel prices, annual inflation is forecasted at 3 per cent and remains consistent with the target set by the West African Economic and Monetary Union. Despite an unfavourable external and domestic economic environment, as well as a difficult political situation, the Government has stood by its commitment to pursue financial reforms and improve fiscal discipline. Total tax revenues are expected to increase by just over 1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) this year owing to the elimination of some customs exemptions and improved revenue collection. The overall deficit is expected to be around 4 per cent of GDP.

34. The Government is consolidating its credibility with international financial institutions and its international partners, and it is focusing its efforts on reaching the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative completion point. Although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board meeting, scheduled for 2 April 2010, and the disbursement of budgetary support by the African Development Bank (AfDB) were postponed owing to the events of 1 April, the IMF

Executive Board approved, on 7 May, a three-year, $33.3 million Extended Credit Facility arrangement to support Guinea-Bissau's medium-term economic programme. It also endorsed the second $1.5 million disbursement for interim assistance under the HIPC Initiative. In its assessment of the macroeconomic situation, the IMF Executive Board stressed that Guinea-Bissau's macroeconomic performance had improved in recent years and that the Government had defined a medium-term macroeconomic and structural reform programme for 2010-2012 to build on those achievements. Continued performance will pave the way for Guinea-Bissau to reach the HIPC Initiative completion point late in 2010.

35. AfDB, acting on the positive signal of IMF, disbursed $8.5 million in budgetary support on 18 May. A World Bank mission deployed to Bissau from 3 to 5 March 2010 announced that programme support for Guinea-Bissau in 2010 stood at a total of $24 million. A second mission, dispatched from 13 to 16 April for consultations on budgetary support, endorsed the view that the public finance situation had improved considerably, although various challenges persisted.

36. The Government has remained up to date with current civil service salaries and disbursed $70 million on 7 May to pay domestic arrears outstanding for the private sector since the 1998-1999 armed conflict. The Government also continued to implement its anti-corruption drive. On 12 March, 14 civil servants, most from the Ministry of Finance, were arrested by the Judiciary Police in connection with an alleged scheme to create ghost workers on the civil service payroll. Up to 21 civil servants have been arrested to date. Charges were laid against 13 of them by the Office of the Prosecutor General on 17 May.

37. The multiple indicator cluster survey conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which provides data on the situation of women and children in Guinea-Bissau, is more than halfway through the data collection phase and will be an essential data source for the new 2011-2013 poverty reduction strategy paper. With support from the World Health Organization and UNICEF, a polio campaign was launched simultaneously on 6 March in 15 countries in West Africa, including Guinea-Bissau. The first two rounds of the campaign, held from 6 to 9 March and 24 to 27 April, were successfully completed, with a coverage rate of 96 per cent and 97 per cent, respectively, for children under 5 years of age. The third and final round was held from 28 May to 2 June and, in addition to polio immunization, included the provision of vitamin A supplements and de-worming tablets.

38. In the context of the Child-Friendly Schools Initiative, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, is building and rehabilitating 50 schools, benefiting 4,000 children, through local community groups and non-governmental organizations. In April, UNICEF signed a new agreement with the Government of Japan to fund child survival and basic education initiatives in the Gabú and Oio regions for $9.6 million over a two-year period.

39. From 13 to 15 April, UNDP, in collaboration with UNIOGBIS, delivered the second training workshop on ethics and reporting techniques in conflict-sensitive environments for 21 community radio journalists in the north. Participants were trained to address local crisis issues, such as land conflict and cattle rustling. UNIOGBIS broadcast 15 radio programmes on security sector reform, political dialogue, the Peacebuilding Commission and human rights. In early May, it organized a training workshop for 40 journalists on the role of the press in

promoting dialogue, peace and reconciliation. The training was organized in partnership with the Union of Journalists.

VIII. Human rights and rule of law

40. Representatives of the Movement of Civil Society for Peace, Democracy and Development visited Vice Admiral Zamora Induta and Colonel Samba Djaló on 9 April 2010. The Movement concluded that the detention of the two officers was in clear violation of the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners. Both detainees continue to be held incommunicado. My Special Representative and representatives of the international community and human rights organizations have, on several occasions, raised concerns over the security and integrity of the detained officers with the civilian authorities. They have also asked that a medical team of national and international doctors be granted access to them, a request that has not been granted to date. On 17 May, the Movement called for the transfer of Vice Admiral Induta from the Mansoa barracks to house arrest pending the conclusion of the ongoing investigations.

41. According to the Prosecutor General, the investigation into the assassination of President Vieira on 2 March 2009 is at an advanced stage and the military staff who were on duty at the presidential residence at the time of the assassination have been questioned. However, key witnesses in Senegal and Europe, including the wife of the late President, have not been heard by the Commission of Inquiry, owing to a lack of resources. The investigation by the military into the bomb attack that killed General Tagme Na Waie on 1 March 2009 is nearing completion. The investigations into the killings on 4 and 5 June 2009 of the former Minister of Territorial Administration, Baciro Dabó and Hélder Proença, both of whom were also Parliamentarians, are at a less advanced stage and are focused on the coup d'état in which they were allegedly involved. The five suspects detained in connection with the bomb attack, including the former Air Force Chief of Staff, are still being held incommunicado and without charge.

42. My Special Representative continued to work in collaboration with the African Union, ECOWAS, CPLP and other partners on seeking clarifications from the authorities on their requests for international support for the investigations. On 11 March 2010, the Government wrote to my Special Representative to convey a list of technical and financial support requirements drawn up by the Prosecutor General, which was in turn forwarded to the African Union, ECOWAS and CPLP, as well as to the permanent members of the Security Council. In April, ECOWAS requested clarifications on the financial details, and on an outstanding request for international experts. The Prosecutor General met my Special Representative on 13 May and requested that international prosecutors assist with the inquiries so as to lend more credibility to the investigation process. He also noted the need for providing protection to witnesses and investigating magistrates. My Special Representative is following up on these requests with Guinea-Bissau's international partners.

43. The eighth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council reviewed the situation in Guinea-Bissau on 7 May 2010. The Working Group made several recommendations to Guinea-Bissau, which included: (a) the armed forces should be effectively controlled and security sector reform should remain a priority; (b) the country's legislative and administrative

measures should be reviewed with the aim of eliminating gender discrimination; and (c) efforts should be increased to improve women's rights and measures introduced to combat harmful traditional practices under customary law.

IX. Gender issues

44. During the reporting period, UNIOGBIS provided financial and technical support to the Government in developing a national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which was adopted in the National Assembly at a special session to mark International Women's Day on 8 March 2010. In partnership with the Ministry of Women, Family, Social Cohesion and Poverty Reduction and the National Institute for Women and Children, UNIOGBIS organized a training workshop on advocacy for gender equality and women's rights in all aspects of the peace agenda. The workshop, held from 19 to 22 March, was intended for national programme managers from non-governmental organizations and the Government.

45. UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are providing technical assistance in the preparation of draft legislation on female genital mutilation or cutting, child trafficking and birth registration for submission to the National Assembly. During the first quarter of 2010, junior parliamentarians received training on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the role of junior parliamentarians in lobbying for the implementation of the Convention. Under the joint UNFPA/UNICEF programme to accelerate efforts to end female genital mutilation or cutting, UNICEF will continue to assist the Institute of Women and Children in implementing the national strategy to end female genital mutilation or cutting and the plan of action, which were validated on 29 April.

X. Safety and security of personnel

46. The forced entry into the United Nations building by a group of armed forces elements on 1 April compelled my Special Representative to approach national authorities, including the President, the Prime Minister and the military leadership, in order to clarify the situation and reduce the impact of the event. With the exception of essential staff, all United Nations personnel were sent home after the incident and normal work resumed on 4 April. However, some demonstrators linked the departure of Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto from the United Nations premises to the events of 1 April and strongly criticized the Organization for having sheltered him.

47. There are no visible direct threats against the United Nations in general and staff members in particular, but the probability of United Nations staff being targeted indirectly owing to internal clashes or demonstrations relating to the prevailing political-military situation increased significantly. The crime rate remains under normal levels, with no incidents involving United Nations staff. Meanwhile, all security measures applicable to United Nations staff continue to be strictly enforced, in view of the prevalent security risks.

XI. United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

48. During the period under review, UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team continued to make substantive progress towards integration and finalized a United Nations framework for peace and development in Guinea-Bissau. The framework brings together the political, development and human rights work of the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau and prioritizes actions in four areas, namely: (a) governance, democracy and political dialogue; (b) economic revitalization; (c) security sector reform and rule of law; and (d) basic social services and protection of vulnerable groups. The framework is fully aligned with national peacebuilding and development priorities and will enable the United Nations to provide more coordinated and coherent support to the efforts of the Government and the people of Guinea-Bissau. The framework also includes a detailed matrix of priority actions and indictors for measuring progress and ensuring accountability. UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team have strengthened existing coordination mechanisms to implement the framework.

XII. Observations

49. The brief detention of the Prime Minister and of the Chief of General Staff and other senior military officers by some members of the armed forces on 1 April 2010 constituted a major setback to the process of consolidating stability and implementing key reforms, following the full restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau after the 2009 presidential election. In addition, the unprecedented violation of the United Nations premises on 1 April by elements of the armed forces is unacceptable and condemnable. I urge the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau to comply with their obligation to protect United Nations installations, personnel and assets.

50. The important progress made by the Government and people of Guinea-Bissau towards strengthening democratic institutions and implementing major reforms, which had generated positive momentum with and among international partners, could rapidly be compromised unless drastic changes are made by key national stakeholders to advance crucial reforms, including the reform of the defence and security sectors, and to stabilize the country. The President, the Prime Minister and other key national stakeholders would need to take concrete actions to preserve the gains made so far and to consolidate the State-building process in the country.

51. I fully support, in that regard, the position taken by regional and international actors, including the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS and the European Union, and the clear messages conveyed to national authorities, in particular with regard to the need for the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to respect the rule of law and abide by the Constitution. It is crucial that the country's civilian and military authorities agree on a rapid and acceptable solution to the sensitive issue of the military leadership in Guinea-Bissau. I call on the armed forces to demonstrate their resolve to remain subordinate to the civilian leadership, who enjoy legitimacy as a result of fair and transparent elections.

52. It is also imperative that the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau rapidly put in place the necessary conditions to guarantee the security and well-being of the

Chief of General Staff and other detainees arrested in connection with the events of 1 April and previous events. Their right to due legal process and their other human rights must be respected, and the national authorities should be held accountable in that regard.

53. Continued dialogue and functional relationships among all State institutions are fundamental and would help to avoid future situations similar to the events of 1 April. Full respect for the separation of powers would also ensure the proper functioning of State institutions. I am encouraged that President Sanha has entered into a wide-ranging dialogue with national stakeholders to resolve this crisis, and I urge him to deepen this dialogue and use all available institutional and constitutional instruments to that end. Dialogue should also be aimed at seeking broad national consensus on other major issues, including security sector reform, and should pave the way for the convening of the national conference planned for 2011.

54. International partners are committed to supporting Guinea-Bissau in the pursuit of its reform agenda. The continued engagement of international financial institutions is an example of that commitment. With regard to security sector reform, I once again endorse the call of the international community for the Government to provide credible interlocutors and to unequivocally demonstrate national commitment to that agenda of reform. Without these conditions, endeavours to launch resource mobilization initiatives, such as the planned high-level event of the Peacebuilding Commission on security sector reform and the donor round-table conference for development assistance, would be severely undermined. The continued stalemate on political and security-related issues could also impact the very promising ongoing fiscal reforms, which must stay on track if the country is to reach the crucial HIPC completion point later this year.

55. The growing influence of transnational crime, including drug trafficking, in some sections of the military and the State apparatus, and in the economy, threatens to further compromise the fragility of the State. I am deeply concerned over reports linking drug trafficking with the events of 1 April. Security sector reform is a sine qua non condition for stabilization. However, unless strong action is taken against organized crime and drug trafficking, efforts to restructure the defence sector will be undermined. The scourge of drug trafficking, which affects the entire subregion, would need to be addressed by national, bilateral and multilateral partners through well-coordinated and more robust strategies and initiatives in support of the 2008-2011 ECOWAS regional action plan to fight illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse.

56. The events of 1 April demonstrated once more the vulnerability of State institutions in the face of attempts by the military to subvert constitutional order. I am concerned about the weak national security arrangements for the protection of State institutions and national officials. In order to address this critical situation, it is my intention to engage national authorities and regional partners to explore ways of enhancing the security of the civilian leadership of Guinea-Bissau, including through specific initiatives in the context of our support to the reform of the defence and security sector. I would like to reiterate in particular my appeal for strengthened engagement by key partners, such as the African Union, ECOWAS, CPLP and the European Union.

57. I would like to commend the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, the leadership and personnel of the entire United Nations country team, international and national non-governmental organizations and other partners for the important work they continue to carry out in Guinea-Bissau.